Pam. Misc.

1696

THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION of the YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS of North America

Its Beginnings, Composition, Organization, Plan of Procedure, and Other Matters of General Interest Concerning the Convention.

It is suggested that delegates keep this booklet for reference throughout the Convention.

THE CONVENTION AND ITS HISTORY

What It Is—The International Convention is the official assemblage and highest legislative body of the Young Men's Christian Associations in the United States and Canada. It meets triennially to review the reports of the International Committee and other special and standing committees appointed by the Convention; to consider the recommendations of these agents of the Convention, and such other business affecting the corporate interests of the North American Associations as may be brought to its attention. In addition to its legislative and policy-making functions, the International Convention also serves as the great inspirational gathering of the North American Associations as a whole.

History—The first International Convention was held at Buffalo in 1854 with representatives present from nineteen Associations. Thereafter, annual meetings were held (with the exception of 1862) until 1877 when the Convention voted that it should thereafter meet biennially. At the Jubilee Convention, held in Boston in 1901, it was decided that subsequent Conventions should be held triennially.

PREPARATION FOR THE CONVENTION

Executive Agent—The International Committee elected by each Convention serves as its agent. During the interim between Conventions it is responsible for all matters concerning which the Convention has instructed it and for all other matters affecting the Convention not referred to any other Convention agent.

Selection of Time and Place—The Convention Rules provide that the Convention shall meet triennially at a time and place to be determined by the International Committee. In 1922 the time and place were chosen by the International Committee upon recommendation of the Convention Committee.

Convention Committee—The Convention Committee was appointed by the International Committee in 1921 and has been responsible for planning the program and all arrangements for the Atlantic City Convention. It is composed of the following:

C. R. Joy, Keokuk, Iowa, Chairman
W. W. Adair, New York City
J. C. Baker, Champaign, Ill.
C. L. Hibbard, Pittsfield, Mass.
J. W. Hopkins, Toronto, Canada.
J. J. McKim, New Haven, Conn.
A. E. Marling, New York City.

L. W. Messer, Chicago, Ill.
J. R. Mott, New York City.
I. B. Rhodes, Columbus, Ohio.
A. G. Studer, Detroit, Mich.
F. W. Ramsey, Cleveland, Ohio.
L. T. Warner, Bridgeport, Conn.
W. D. Weatherford, Nashville, Tenn.

THE CONVENTION ORGANIZATION

Call to Order—The Convention is called to order by the President of the preceding Convention or in his absence by the Chairman of the International Committee who presides until the new officials have been chosen.

Nominating Committee—At the opening session of each Convention, a Committee consisting of one delegate from each state, district, province, and territory represented, is nominated by the delegates from such states, districts, provinces, and territories, and elected by the Convention. This Committee withdraws during the first session of the Convention and nominates permanent officers for the Convention. Its report must be presented to the Convention before the close of the first session.

Credentials Committee—The Credentials Committee, in accordance with the Convention Rules, is appointed by the International Committee in the early fall. It is responsible for receiving and passing on the credentials of delegates and for reporting on the same to the Convention. The Credentials Committee for the Atlantic City Convention is composed of the following:

Dr. O. E. Brown, Nashville, Tenn., Chairman.
James Logan, Worcester, Mass.
H. P. Lansdale, Rochester, N. Y.
W. C. Paige, Houston, Texas.
H. L. Seamans, Columbus, Ohio.
E. L. Shuey, Dayton, Ohio.
K. A. Shumaker, Chicago, Illinois.

Committee on the International Committee's Report—This Committee is nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Convention and usually is composed of fifteen members. In many respects it is the most important Committee of the Convention, as it deals with the report and recommendations of the Convention's executive agent, the International Committee. After consideration of the report of the International Committee and its recommendations, this Committee submits to the Convention its own recommendations which formulate the basis for a large part of the Convention legislative action.

Business Committee—Immediately after the organization of the Convention is completed, the newly

elected President of the Convention appoints a Business Committee, usually composed of ten members. This Committee is responsible for arranging and directing the program of the Convention during the Convention sessions.

Committee on Resolutions—The newly elected President also appoints a Committee on Resolutions, usually composed of fifteen members. This Committee is responsible for receiving all resolutions, memorials, and propositions. These must be submitted in writing on or before the second day of the Convention. The Committee on Resolutions submits these to the Convention with its recommendations and also its recommendations concerning such other matters as the Committee deems necessary.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION

Statement Concerning Evangelical Basis—The Convention rules require each Association to file with the International Committee, at least ten days prior to the opening date of the Convention, a statement that it is in obedience to, and in practice in accord with, the basis of active membership as defined by previous International Conventions.

Delegates Must Be Elected—The Convention rules require that all regular (voting) delegates must be active members of the Association which they represent, and must have been elected delegates by the direct vote of the active membership of their Association, or by the Managing Board.

Regular Delegates—Regular voting delegates to the Convention must have been selected in accordance with the provisions indicated above. Associations conforming thereto are entitled to elect two regular delegates from their active membership and one more regular delegate for each complete one hundred active members additional to the first one hundred active members in the Association.

Corresponding Delegates—In addition to the members and secretaries of the general agencies hereinafter referred to, members of North American Associations, visiting members of foreign Associations, visitors from unorganized towns and ministers of evangelical churches, will be admitted to seats as corresponding delegates with all privileges except that of voting. There is no limit to the number of corresponding delegates who may be elected.

Ex-Officio Delegates—The officers of the preceding (Detroit) International Convention, numbering eight, will be the only ex-officio delegates to the Atlantic City Convention.

Metropolitan Associations—Boards of Directors of Metropolitan Associations are entitled to two (2) regular delegates chosen from the members of the Board of Directors.

Branches and Departments—Branches or Departments of Associations having a distinct membership roll and a Committee of Management composed of members of evangelical churches, and conforming to the other requirements *re* the basis of membership, are entitled to elect delegates on the same basis as other Associations.

Provisional Associations—Those Provisional Associations, the recognition of which has been author-

ized by International Conventions and which have Committees of Management all of whose members are also members of evangelical churches, are entitled to two (2) regular voting delegates chosen from the members of the Committee of Management.

State and International Representation—Duly certified members and secretaries, including corresponding members of the International Committee, the Canadian National Council, and of the State and Provincial Committees who are not accredited as regular delegates, will be admitted to seats as corresponding delegates with all privileges except that of voting. If representatives of these agencies desire to attend the Convention as regular (voting) delegates they may do so by securing regular delegates' credentials from a local Association in which they must hold active membership.

County Representation—Members of local Associations affiliated with County organizations will be entitled to representation as other local Associations, provided they conform to the usual requirements. Members of County Committees are entitled to participation on the same basis as are members of State and International Committees.

Student Associations an Exception—Student Associations are permitted to include in their active membership "Students and members of faculties who are either members of evangelical churches or who accept Jesus Christ as He is offered in the Holy Scriptures as their God and Saviour and who approve the objects of the Association which are as follows: To lead students to become disciples of Jesus Christ as their Divine Lord and Saviour, to lead them to join the church, to promote growth in Christian faith and character, and to enlist them in Christian service. Only active members of Student Associations shall have the right to vote, and only active members who are members of evangelical churches shall be eligible for office." Representation in International Conventions from Student Associations "shall be based upon the number of active members who are members of evangelical churches and only such members shall represent Associations in International Conventions."

CONVENTION PROCEDURE

(From the Convention Rules)

Order of Procedure—The order of procedure for each session of the whole Convention shall be as follows:

Devotional Exercises
Reading of Minutes
Calls for Resolutions, Memorials, and Propositions until the close of the second day
Reading of Communications
Reports of Standing Committees
Reports of Special Committees and Commissions
Unfinished Business.

Order of Reports—The reports of Committees shall be numbered and placed upon a docket and brought up in regular order in Convention, except such as shall be referred to the Committee as a whole. Unless otherwise instructed, Committees shall report matters referred to them before the last business session of the Convention.

Time of Committee Meetings—While the Convention is in session, no Committee shall sit without special permission.

Reference of Business—After the appointment of the Committees, memorials, resolutions, and propositions shall be referred by the President, without action or debate, to a standing Committee, unless the Convention shall refer the same to a special Committee, or to the Committee of the Whole; and this rule of reference shall apply to all business brought before the Convention, except such as is incidental in its character.

Limit of Time in Debate and Discussion—Members assigned to open topics of discussion shall be limited to fifteen minutes each. No other member shall speak more than once on any question until others who wish have spoken, or more than five minutes without unanimous consent; and this rule shall prevail in the Committee of the Whole.

Motions to be Written—All motions or amendments to motions shall be reduced to writing before they are put to vote.

Yeas and Nays—The vote when desired by five members of different Associations, on any proposition shall be taken by yeas and nays, and recorded. In such cases each Association shall be entitled to one vote, which shall be cast by a majority of its delegates present.

Previous Question—Pending any question, it shall always be in order to move that the debate close, which motion shall be put without discussion, in this form: "Shall the question now be put?"

Suspension of Rules—The Convention may at any time suspend the rules for a special object by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

Procedure Unprovided for—Where these rules make no provision, "Robert's Rules of Order" shall prevail.

THE SECTIONAL SESSIONS

Groups of Associations—On Thursday and Friday afternoon, the Convention will meet in Sections according to groups of Associations as follows:

Section of City Associations
" " County Associations
" " Student Associations
" " Railroad Associations
" " Army and Navy Associations
" " Industrial Associations

Purpose of Sectional Meetings—These Sectional Sessions are intended to provide opportunity for delegates from each of the several classes of Associations to discuss in a more intimate way the bearing of the questions before the Convention on their particular work and field.

Organization of the Sectional Meetings—The Nominating Committee of the Convention designates a Nominating Committee for each of the sections of the Convention, and these Sectional Nominating Committees nominate Chairmen and Secretaries for election by the Section.

The Chairman of each Section appoints a Business Committee and a Findings Committee. The findings of the latter, when adopted by the section, are reported to the Convention as a whole through the Committee on the International Committee's Report.

Procedure of Sections—The rules of the Convention as a whole govern the sectional meetings of the Convention.

Report of the International Committee—In accordance with Convention requirements, the report of the International Committee was distributed to local Associations thirty days prior to the opening of the Convention. A copy was also given to each delegate upon registration. This document embodies a survey and review of the work of the North American Associations at home and abroad, a report of varied activities of the International Committee with financial statements, and such recommendations as the Committee has thought it should make to the Convention.

Commission Reports—A copy of the report of each of the following Commissions was given to each delegate when he registered:

The Standing Committee on Associations,
The Permanent Committee on Vocational Training,
The Board of Trustees of the Retirement Fund,
The Commission on Occupation of the Field,
The Commission on Convention Representation and Rules,
The Commission on Approach to the Church.

Each of these reports contains statements of the personnel and work of the Commission or Committee, and of their findings and recommendations to the Convention.

WHO'S WHO ON THE PROGRAM

COLONEL JOHN T. AXTON, WASHINGTON, D. C.
Chief of Chaplain Corps United States Army; formerly General Secretary Salt Lake City Young Men's Christian Association.

F. WAYLAND AYER, CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY.
President N. W. Ayer & Son, Advertising Agency; President Camden Young Men's Christian Association; Chairman New Jersey State Committee; member International Committee; Chairman Board of Trustees Retirement Fund; President Northern Baptist Convention 1920.

REV. J. C. BAKER, D.D., URBANA, ILLINOIS.
Pastor Trinity Church and Head of Wesleyan Foundation, University of Illinois; member Board of Education Methodist Episcopal Church; Presiding Officer Lake Geneva Student Conference 1922.

CAMERON BECK, NEW YORK CITY.
Personnel Director New York Stock Exchange; President Personnel Directors Association, New York City.

O. E. BROWN, LL. D., NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.
Dean School of Religion Vanderbilt University; Chairman Tennessee State Committee; member International Committee; Chairman Permanent Committee on Vocational Training.

GEORGE W. CAMPBELL, OMAHA, NEBRASKA.
Religious Work Director Omaha Young Men's Christian Association; Leader of Singing Lake Geneva and Silver Bay Summer Schools 1922.

ETHAN T. COLTON, NEW YORK CITY.
Associate General Secretary and Senior Secretary, Religious Work Department, International Committee; sustains special relation to Association work for Russians in other parts of the world as well as in Russia; formerly related to Student and Foreign Departments International Committee.

WILLIAM DALTON, SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK.
Vice-President and General Manager General Electric Company; President Schenectady Young Men's Christian Association.

DRI A. DAVIS, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.
Senior Secretary International Committee in Europe; General Secretary World's Committee; leader of Association reconstruction work in Europe.

REV. WILLIAM HORACE DAY, D. D., BRIDGEPORT, CONN.
Pastor United Congregational Church; Chairman Commission on Approach to the Churches.

PHILO C. DIX, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY.
State Secretary Kentucky Young Men's Christian Associations; recently spent a year in special European service for Committee on Allied Armies and Prisoners of War Work.

REV. HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK, D. D., NEW YORK CITY.
Minister First Presbyterian Church; Professor Union Theological Seminary; author of a number of widely circulated religious and devotional books.

REV. ASHBY JONES, D. D., ATLANTA, GEORGIA.
Pastor Ponce de Leon Avenue Baptist Church; a leading clergyman of the South.

ELISHA LEE, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.
Vice-President Pennsylvania Railroad Company; for many years student and supporter Railroad Association work.

ALEXANDER S. LYMAN, NEW YORK CITY.
General Counsel New York Central Railroad Company; Chairman Park Avenue Branch Young Men's Christian Association, New York City; member International Committee and sub-committee on Transportation work.

JUDGE ADRIAN LYON, PERTH AMBOY, NEW JERSEY.
Attorney; President Perth Amboy Young Men's Christian Association; member New Jersey State Committee; Chairman Commission on Convention Representation and Rules.

REV. WILLIAM FRASER MCDOWELL, D. D., WASHINGTON, D. C.
Bishop Methodist Episcopal Church; for many years leader of Association work among college and university students; his messages on the platform of The International Convention in former years have strongly influenced the Brotherhood.

RIGHT REV. WILLIAM T. MANNING, D. D., NEW YORK CITY.
Bishop of the Diocese of New York, of the Protestant Episcopal Church; Volunteer Chaplain Camp Upton where he had intimate contact with Association work among soldiers.

ALFRED E. MARLING, NEW YORK CITY.
President Horace S. Ely & Company; Chairman International Committee; Chairman Board of Trustees National Board Young Women's Christian Association; member Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church of the U. S. A.

MAJOR ROBERT R. MOTON, TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA.
Principal Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute; member International Committee; educational leader of national influence and valued counselor in Association work among Colored men and boys.

DR. JOHN P. MUNN, NEW YORK CITY.
Physician; President United States Life Insurance Company; member International Committee and for many years Chairman Transportation Department of The International Committee; Chairman Standing Committee on Associations.

HORACE PARKER, EAST DEERFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.
Engineer Boston & Maine Railroad; member East Deerfield Association.

REV. RICHARD ROBERTS, D. D., MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA.
Minister, American Presbyterian Church.

JUDSON G. ROSEBUSH, APPLETON, WISCONSIN.
Paper manufacturer; Director Appleton Young Men's Christian Association; member Wisconsin State Committee; member International Committee; formerly professor economics Lawrence College.

Captain Evan W. Scott, Washington, D. C.
Senior Chaplain, Bureau of Navigation, United States Navy; for many years familiar with Association work in the Navy.

Rev. Robert E. Speer, D. D., New York City.
Secretary Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions; President Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America; author and speaker well known and beloved throughout the Brotherhood.

Rev. J. Ross Stevenson, D. D.
President Princeton Theological Seminary; member International Committee; for many years Chairman of the sub-Committee of Student Department of The International Committee having supervision of Association work in theological seminaries. Gave his entire time during the war to Association work at home and abroad.

Captain Charles R. Train, Washington, D. C.
Head Morale Division Bureau of Navigation, United States Navy Department; through long experience possesses intimate knowledge of the conditions affecting the welfare of men in the Navy and Marine Corps.

Honorable J. Mayhew Wainwright, Washington, D. C.
Assistant Secretary of War.

Honorable Henry C. Wallace, Washington, D. C.
Secretary of Agriculture; Chairman Iowa State Committee; member International Committee; publisher.

Robert P. Wilder, New York City.
Founder and General Secretary Student Volunteer Movement; formerly Senior Secretary Religious Work Department International Committee.

Rev. Warren H. Wilson, D. D., New York City.
Secretary Country Life Department, Presbyterian Board of Home Missions; intimately acquainted with Association work in rural communities; professor rural sociology, Columbia University.

Fisk Jubilee Singers, Nashville, Tennessee.
Representatives of Fisk University; gifted singers of the colored race; successors to the original Jubilee Singers who for fifty years have made their university famous by their message of song. The Singers are composed of the following:

Horatio W. O'Bannon, baritone
Carl J. Barbour, second tenor
L. David Collins, bass
James A. Myers, first tenor and reader
Mrs. James A. Myers, contralto.

CONVENTION ARRANGEMENTS

The Convention Bulletin—The Convention Bulletin will be distributed to all delegates at the close of each evening session and will contain the program and announcements concerning various Convention matters for the ensuing day. Each delegate should provide himself with copy of this Bulletin and study carefully the various announcements made therein. It is also suggested that delegates preserve copy of each issue of the Bulletin and thus retain a comprehensive summary of the Convention program and announcements.

Exhibits—The exhibits in the corridors surrounding the Convention Hall are well worth the careful study of every delegate. They portray the historical development of the North American Association Movement and are rich with information concerning the growth of the Movement and its various component parts.

Expenses—The Convention expenses include those incurred by the various Commissions in attending meetings and in preparation of their reports; the cost of printing and distributing such reports; the issuance of the Convention Bulletin and all other Convention printed matter; the clerical help required for the extensive correspondence about credentials and other Convention matters; postage for mailing printed matter, credentials, and Convention correspondence; expenses of speakers, including musical features of the program; the rental of the Convention Hall; the cost of recording, editing, printing, and distributing the Convention Report, and the numerous miscellaneous items incident to the conduct of a large Convention.

The funds for meeting these expenses are provided from two sources—the registration fee of $10 paid by each delegate, and nominal contributions toward Convention expenses promised by the Atlantic City hotels.

The Convention income and expenditures are carried as part of the budget of the International Committee.

The Convention Report—Each delegate will receive free a copy of the complete Convention Report, a volume usually comprising several hundred pages. It will be an invaluable record of the Convention. The report will be mailed probably during the early part of the new year to each delegate at the address given when credentials were ordered. When such address is incorrect, delegates should send correct name, street, and post office address to G. S. Bilheimer, Convention Secretary, Room 908, 347 Madison Avenue, New York City.

PLACE FOR THE NEXT CONVENTION

The Convention rules provide that—

"In determining the place for holding the next Convention, all invitations for each Convention shall be presented on the floor of the Convention at a time arranged for the purpose by the Business Committee, each invitation being entitled to five minutes for its presentation.

"These invitations having been thus received by the Convention, shall be referred to the next International Committee which shall determine upon the place for holding the next Convention. Each convention may determine the year in which its successor shall be held. In default of such action, the next Convention shall be held after the same interval as elapsed between the two Conventions preceding it."

DUTY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE BETWEEN CONVENTIONS

The Convention rules provide that—

"After the adjournment of each Convention, it shall be the duty of the International Committee to transact any business entrusted to its charge; and it may, upon an emergency requiring immediate action, adopt such measures as may be necessary, not inconsistent with the action of preceding Conventions, reporting the same to the next succeeding Convention for its approval."

SUGGESTIONS FOR DELEGATES

Prayer—There is a great difference in Conventions. Some leave their mark on men and communities because of that indefinite but real something called "spirit." Others lacking this, with brilliant speakers and perfect arrangements, never "arrive."

In a Convention involving such large outlay of time and money for the purpose of increasing the spread of the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is His Spirit who must quicken the delegates individually and collectively, and His Spirit waits on prayerful invitation. Let every delegate be hourly in prayer that the Spirit of Jesus Christ may thoroughly dominate every delegate and every act of the Convention. In such event, and only thereby, will this Forty-first International Convention of the North American Associations leave its mark on men, on the Association Movement, and on the world.

Punctuality—The convenience of every delegate and the best interest of the Convention as a whole will be greatly enhanced by punctuality on the part of delegates. With slight effort delegates can be in their seats a few minutes prior to the hour of opening quite as easily as afterwards. The preliminary periods of singing will alone make this well worth the additional effort required.

Participation—In a Convention of two thousand or more delegates, it is manifestly impossible for every delegate to participate in the various discussions. On the other hand, there is more time always in such Conventions for discussion than is used because so much time is lost through delegates failing to realize their opportunities. Delegates are in this Convention to represent the Associations which sent them. If they have comments to make on the subjects under discussion, they should express them. This applies to newcomers as well as to old timers. One way to facilitate such action is for the delegates to condense what he wishes to say and then to say it promptly. The Convention belongs to, or rather the Convention is, the delegates. What it does depends on them. Those who speak from the floor especially should remember that the best impression will be made by those who speak most audibly, clearly, and to the point.

Neighborliness—Hundreds of Associations will be represented by thousands of delegates in this great International gathering. Some will know many of their fellow delegates, but the majority will have but slight acquaintance. Every delegate should seek to extend his acquaintance by introducing himself to fellow delegates. Some of the pleasantest and most profitable experiences of the Convention grow out of such acquaintance. There is opportunity for exchange not only of personal greetings but of a vast range of Association experience between Association officials, directors, Committee members, and employed officers. Remember that the other fellow is only waiting to be met half way.

About Notes—It is the testimony of most experienced Convention-goers that the value of attendance at any convention is largely increased when full notes of addresses and discussions have been taken by the delegates in attendance. Such notes serve to fix points in the memory and are an invaluable aid when preparing a report to be given to the local Association upon return home. In subsequent years they also serve as pleasant reminders of important happenings and experiences.